



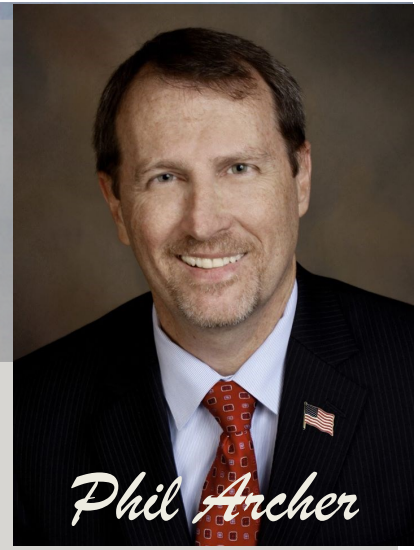
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Domestic Violence Awareness Month



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The Monthly Brief

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DV AWARENESS MONTH

Don't stay silent. Join us as we speak up all month long.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.



Domestic violence does not discriminate. Anyone of any race, age, sex, religion or gender can be a victim – or perpetrator – of domestic violence. It can happen to people who are married, living together or who are dating. It affects people of all backgrounds and education levels.

Domestic violence includes behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats, intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship.

Every October, we rededicate ourselves to breaking the cycle. Here are just a few ways to [learn more about DV](#) or get help:

In Seminole: [Safe House of Seminole](#)

In Brevard: [Serene Harbor](#) (321) 726-8282

Nationally: [The Hotline](#) (800) 799-7233

SAO Advocates: Seminole (407) 665-6116

Brevard: (321) 617-7510 x52775

*TheHotline.org

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DMV Scams Rising

With more than 200 million licensed drivers in the US, most of us will interact with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) at some point. Criminals know this and are ramping up DMV impostor scams. So how does it work?

It all starts with either a [text message or an email](#) with an alert related to your license or vehicle registration. Examples include demands for payment of overdue fees or face license suspension. Offers a refund from an overpayment or you are [entitled to a fuel rebate](#) to offset high gas prices. [Scammers are setting up fake websites offering online DMV services.](#) These appear both as links in messages or emails, and as results in a browser search. It's all designed to get your payment method, or personal ID info.

In some states, DMVs do send text messages, but only to consumers who have signed up to receive them. However, government agencies, including the DMV, will not ask for personal or private data by text message. What should I do?

#1:Check for misspellings or grammar mistakes in messages **#2:**Watch for fake or generic names that don't match your state's actual DMV **#3:**Look for .gov in the url of the website **#4:**Never click links in unsolicited messages-verify the info by contacting the agency independently. **#5:**Report scams to the [Federal Trade Commission](#) or the [Consumer Protection Agency](#) for your state. [Learn more about DMV Scams from the AARP](#)

*AARP, TMJ4news, WGRZ2news, NYDMV

MORE PUPPY & PET SCAMS!



Pet scammers post fake litters online or [pretend to be someone they're not \(usually an existing breeder\)](#) to take advantage of shoppers. Too often victims will find the perfect pet, send the 'breeder' money, but never receive an animal or any communication in return. Not only is this a nationwide problem, but locally the [Flagler County Sheriff](#) and Flagler Beach PD have reported these incidents. Click here to [watch the WESH 2 News Report](#)

Typically these crooks will operate on Craigslist and social media platforms, posting stock photos of animals like the one above. Sometimes a quick image search on Google or [TinEye](#) will reveal the deception. But there are other red flags to look for.

No phone calls: The seller communicates by email, avoiding the phone. This is typically to hide their real location. A reputable breeder will always communicate with you via phone or video chat (if not in person) before selling you a puppy. **Copycat Descriptions:** In addition to photos, ad text will often be copied across multiple websites. Google the text looking for other matches. **Untraditional payment requests:** Beware if the seller asks for wiring of money or payment by gift cards. Avoid payment apps, as credit cards and PayPal offer greater fraud protection and a chance to recover your money. Finally and most important **The price is too good to be true.**

Learn more visit [BBB Pet Scams](#), and how to identify legitimate breeders at [American Kennel Club](#) online, or call them at 919-233-9767. * Source AKC, BBB, WESH, FCSO, WKPRC